

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
HIROSHI MATSUDA ) : Examiner: Thierry L. Pham  
Application No.: 09/769,466 ) : Group Art Unit: 2625  
Filed: January 26, 2001 ) : Confirmation No.: 5463  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR )  
CONTROLLING IMAGE OUTPUT :  
ON MEDIA OF DIFFERENT )  
OUTPUT DEVICES (AS AMENDED) : October 20, 2006

**Mail Stop Issue Fee**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT FOR REASONS OF ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicant is in receipt of a Notice of Allowance dated October 4, 2006, in the above-referenced application. The Issue Fee is due on or before January 4, 2007, and is being paid concurrently herewith.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Reasons for Allowance set forth in the October 4, 2006 Notice of Allowability on the grounds whereas the Reasons refer to "control means for prohibiting a reception of the user request via said user interface unit in a case where the same-sized output media are not stored in the plural image output devices, and permitting the reception of the user request via said user interface unit in a case where

the same-sized output media are stored in the plural image output devices, wherein said control means causes the plural image output devices to execute the outputting operation for the cascade outputting mode after permitting the reception of the user request and accepting the user request via said user interface unit”:

- (a) Claim 8 instead recites, *inter alia*, “controlling for prohibiting a reception of the user request via the user interface unit in a case where the same-sized output media are not stored in the plural image output devices, and permitting the reception of the user request via the user interface unit in a case where the same-sized output media are stored in the plural image output devices, wherein controlling means causes the plural image output devices to execute said outputting operation for the cascade outputting mode after permitting the reception of the user request and accepting the user request via said user interface unit”;
- (b) Claim 15 instead recites, *inter alia*, executing control processing of prohibiting a reception of the user request via said user interface unit in a case where the same-sized output media are not stored in the plural image output devices, and permitting the reception of the user request via said user interface unit in a case where the same-sized output media are stored in the plural image output devices, wherein said control processing causes the plural image output devices to execute the outputting operation for the cascade outputting mode after permitting the reception of the user request and accepting the user request via said user interface unit;

- (c) Claim 16 instead recites, *inter alia*, a controller adapted to prohibit a reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where the same output medium is not set in both of said user's device and said another image output device, and to permit the reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where the same output medium is set in both of said user's device and said another image output device, wherein said controller allows execution of the cascade printing operation in said user's device and said another image output device, after permitting the reception of instruction via said user interface unit from the user and accepting the instruction via said user interface unit;
- (d) Claim 22 instead recites, *inter alia*, a controller adapted to prohibit a reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where an output medium of the same size is not set in both of said user's device and said another image output device, and to permit the reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where the output medium of the same size is set in both of said user's device and said another image output device, wherein said controller allows execution of the cascade printing operation in said user's device and said another image output device, after permitting the reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user and accepting the instruction via said user interface unit;

(e) Claim 28 instead recites, *inter alia*, a controller adapted to prohibit a reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where an output medium of the same type is not set in both of said user's device and said another image output device, and to permit the reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where the output medium of the same type is set in both of said user's device and said another image output device, wherein said controller allows execution of the cascade printing operation in said user's device and said another image output device, after permitting the reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user and accepting the instruction via said user interface unit;

(f) Claim 35 instead recites, *inter alia*, a controller adapted to prohibit a reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where an output medium of the same size and the same type is not set in both of said user's device and said another image output device, and to permit the reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where the output medium of the same size and the same type is set in both of said user's device and said another image output device, wherein said controller allows execution of the cascade printing operation in said user's device and said another image output device, after permitting the reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user and accepting the instruction via said user interface unit;

(g) Claim 42 instead recites, *inter alia*, a controller adapted to prohibit a reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where a certain resource is not set in both of said user's device and said another image output device even if said another image output device has the same function as said user's device has, and to permit the reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where the certain resource is set in both of said user's device and said another image output device, where said controller allows execution of the cascade printing operation in said user's device and said another image output device, after permitting the reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user and accepting the instruction via said user interface unit;

(h) Claim 52 instead recites, *inter alia*, a step of prohibiting a reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where the same output medium is not set in each of said plural image output devices, a step of permitting the reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where the same output medium is set in each of said plural image output devices, and a step of allowing an execution of the cascade printing operation in each of said plural image output devices, after permitting the reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user and accepting the instruction via said user interface unit;

- (i) Claim 59 instead recites, *inter alia*, a step of prohibiting a reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where an output medium of the same size is not set in each of said plural image output devices, a step of permitting the reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where the output medium of the same size is set in each of said plural image output devices, and a step of allowing an execution of the cascade printing operation in each of said plural image output devices, after permitting the reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user and accepting the instruction via said user interface unit;
- (j) Claim 66 instead recites, *inter alia*, a step of prohibiting a reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where an output medium of the same type is not set in each of said plural image output devices, a step of permitting the reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where the output medium of the same type is set in each of said plural image output devices, and a step of allowing an execution of the cascade printing operation in each of said plural image output devices, after permitting the reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user and accepting the instruction via said user interface unit;
- (k) Claim 74 instead recites, *inter alia*, a step of prohibiting a reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where an output medium of the same size and the same type is not set in each of said

plural image output devices, a step of permitting the reception of said instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where the output medium of the same size and the same type is set in each of said plural image output devices, and a step of allowing an execution of the cascade printing operation in each of said plural image output devices, after permitting the reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user and accepting the instruction via said user interface unit; and

(I) Claim 82 instead recites, *inter alia*, a step of prohibiting a reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user, even if each of said plural image output devices has the same function, in a case where certain resource is not set in each of said plural image output devices, a step of permitting the reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user in a case where the certain resource is set in each of said plural image output devices, and a step of allowing an execution of the cascade printing operation in each of said plural image output devices, after permitting the reception of the instruction via said user interface unit from the user and accepting the instruction via said user interface unit was accepted.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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